Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01965 140109Z

64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 EB-07 /079 W
---------- 060387
R 132041Z DEC 74
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5750
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1965

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ROBERT BOURASSA) PFOR, CA, FR
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF BOURASSA VISIT PARIS

REF: QUEBEC 185, DEC 11, 1974

1. COVERAGE OF BOURASSA VISIT BY BALANCE OF MONTREAL PRESS NOT INCLUDED IN QUEBEC CABLE WAS EXTENSIVE AND MUCH OF IT WAS LESS THAN FAVORABLE TO QUEBEC PREMIER. REPORTS STRESSED RESULTS IN CULTURAL FIELD WERE NOT MATCHED IN ECONOMIC SECTOR.

2. WRITING IN THE FRANCOPHONE LA PRESSE OF DECEMBER 4, A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS SAID THAT THE CHIEF MESSAGE BOURASSA BROUGHT CONCERNED BILL 22 WHICH MADE FRENCH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC, AND ADDED THAT BOURASSA WAS RECEIVED AS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD FRACOPHONE FAMILY OF WHICH TRUDEAU IS NOT CONSIDERED A FULL MEMBER. IN A DECEMBER 7 ANALYSIS LA PRESSE, SAID THAT FRANCE CAREFULLY EXTENDED TO BOURASSA THE SAME COURTESIES IT HAD EXTENDED TO TRUDEAU SO AS NOT TO UPSET SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND QUEBEC. HOWEVER, IT TERMED BOURASSA AN ORDINARY TOURIST TRAVELLING FIRST CLASS, WHOSE VISIT WAS SQUEEZED IN AMONG THOSE OF SEVERAL WORLD LEADERS. IT ADDED THAT POLITICALLY THE BOURASSA TRIP WAS RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL BUT THAT
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 01965 140109Z

CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND NOT ECONOMICS FORM THE BASIS OF AGREEMENTS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

REACHED DURING THE VISIT. IN LATER EDITORIAL OF DECEMBER 6
LA PRESSE JUSTIFIED THE DOLLARS 500,000 REPORTEDLY SPENT ON THE
BOURASSA TRIP, SAYING PARIS IS THE ONE PLACE WHERE QUEBEC MUST
PROMOTE ITS IMAGE.

3. ANGLOPHONE PRESS COVERAGE GENERALLY LIMITED. THE GAZETTE
OF DECEMBER 5 ENDED NEWS REPORT WITH "GISCARD WELCOMED BOURASSA
AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE QUEBEC FRENCH PEOPLE AFTER GREETING
ONLY 6 WEEKS AGO PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU AS THE REPRE-
SENTATIVE OF FRENCH CANADA". THE MONTREAL STAR'S QUEBEC EDITOR,
IN HIS COLUMN OF DECEMBER 5, WROTE "THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANCO-
QUEBEC RELATIONS TO DATE HARDLY WARRANT THE TREMENDOUS PUBLICITY
AND THE STUFFY PROTOCOL THAT HAVE ACCOMPANIED PREMIER BOURASSA
IN PARIS".

4. IN DECEMBER 7 ARTICLE THE PARTI QUEBECOIS DAILY LE JOUR
CONTINUED THAT PAPER'S CRITICAL TREATMENT OF THE BOURASSA VISIT
WHEN PQ LEADER RENE LEVESQUE, IN A COLUMN ENTITLED "THE HEAD
OF STATE AND THE SUB-PREFECT", WROTE THAT COMPARISON OF THE
BOURASSA VISIT TO PARIS AND THE TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON
SHOWED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY" CANADA IS A COUNTRY WHILE QUEBEC
IS ONLY A PROVINCE.
HARPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONTRE01965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0685
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741237/aaaabfjj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 QUEBEC 185, 74 DEC 11, 74 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF BOURASSA VISIT PARIS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CA, FR, FRANCOPHONE LA PRESSE, (BOURASSA, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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